



ICPS

International  
Centre for  
Policy  
Studies

# *INSIDE UKRAINE*

*#11, September 2010*

## **EUROINTEGRATION: RESET**

The illusion of eurointegration

The illusion of EU expansion

Speaking different languages

The real sick man of Europe?

The illusion of Association Agreements

Democracy = freedom to live, not to steal

Needed: Institutional transformation

The EU: There are none so blind

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## News of the Month

### Yanukovych-Barroso meeting “productive” but no results

President Viktor Yanukovych met with the President of the European Commission, Jose Manuel Barroso, on 13 September, as part of Mr. Yanukovych's working visit to Brussels at Mr. Barroso's invitation.

The main topic of their discussions was to confirm the Ukraine-EU agenda and the progress of negotiations on the Association Agreement. The greatest number of unresolved points remains in that part of the Agreement related to setting up a Free Trade Area. At the wrap-up press briefing, Mr. Yanukovych noted: “We need a Free Trade Area that reflects the economic realities of both sides and that will benefit both European and Ukrainian producers.”

In general, the President of Ukraine reiterated Ukraine's drive towards European integration: “Integration into the EU is our path to the future.” He also emphasized the success of negotiations with the President of the European Commission and declared himself “satisfied with the results.” Mr. Barroso was more cautious and characterized negotiations as “very productive.”

*Stopping negotiations would not be good for either side*

Given concerns about the progress of these talks on the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU spelled out in a joint letter from the Foreign Ministers of Poland, Czechia and Sweden to their Ukrainian counterparts, the meeting in Brussels looked like an attempt to “reboot” mutual relations. The vague phrasings of both politicians suggest that, at this time, no specific understanding was reached. Still, given the duration and political significance of these negotiations, shutting them down at this point would not be acceptable to either side.

### Kyiv and Astana intensify cooperation

President Yanukovych met with the President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev on 14 September, during the latter's working visit to Kyiv. The two sides reported on a number of declarative understandings regarding economic cooperation between Ukraine and Kazakhstan. A joint statement by Mr. Yanukovych and Mr. Nazarbayev mentions the development of transport corridors that, according to the Ukrainian President, will “join” Europe and Asia. Another project appears even more ambitious: linking up marine transport routes between the Caspian and Black Seas.

*Without Moscow, most plans between Kyiv and Astana will remain on paper only*

In the energy sector, the two Heads of State reached more concrete agreement, especially as regards renewing the transit of Kazakh crude across Ukrainian territory and increasing its annual volume to 8 million t. At the same time, carrying out these projects depends entirely on Russia's position. Ukraine and Kazakhstan have no mutual borders, so without including Moscow, most of the agreements between Kyiv and Astana are likely to remain only on paper.

## Tax Code re-run

Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers submitted an amended draft Tax Code to the Verkhovna Rada on 21 September. First reading of the Code passed in the Verkhovna Rada back in June, but roused a storm of criticism from business and voters alike. This forced the President to announce that the Code in that iteration could not be approved.

The Government has now removed a number of the most criticized provisions from the Code, including some that considerably expanded the powers of the State Tax Administration. Deputy Premier Borys Kolesnikov described the Code as "one of the most liberal tax codes in Europe."

One-time chair of the State Entrepreneurship Committee Oleksandra Kuzhel was less enthused, stating that the proposed Tax Code is "destructive" for both small and medium businesses.

*Lack of public consensus means this Tax Code is not likely to pass*

The absence of public consensus over specific provisions in the new Tax Code in the run-up to local elections makes it less likely that it will be swiftly adopted by the Verkhovna Rada. Moreover, the President has already stated that he is prepared to veto the Tax Code if it is "unpopular."

# Topic of the Month

## Eurointegration: Reset

*Ukraine's integration into Europe is in a dead end*

### The illusion of eurointegration

Ukraine's integration into Europe is into a dead end. For reasons that ordinary Ukrainians do not understand, the European Union is not exactly refusing Ukraine entry, but it is also not making any commitments of any kind. This is a matter of open discussion, both among Ukrainians and in the Union, but no one is brave enough to say that the Emperor has no clothes and to admit the obvious unreality of European integration for Ukraine today.

What's more, the situation is deteriorating daily. Both in Europe and in Ukraine, people see the need to re-boot relations, but no one seems to know exactly how to do that. Each fresh attempt to resolve the problem ends up looking exactly like all the previous steps that led to this very situation.

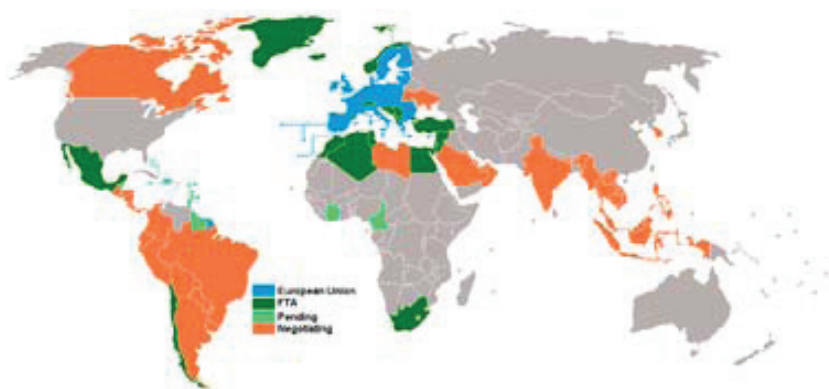
Ukraine's commitments remain strictly on paper. The gap between the endless trail of reports and the virtual reality of cooperation on the ground grows larger and larger. European bureaucrats, who love nothing better than to write up their achievements, and European consultants, who cannot allow themselves to admit honestly how meaningless their projects are lest they lose their jobs, contribute in equal measure to this. No one is prepared to write about the unrealistic nature of their plans and how little they correspond to real capacities on the ground in Ukraine.

Ukraine's integration into the EU is little more than an imitation today. Moreover, it is bad both for Ukraine and for the Union. On the Ukrainian side, it fosters and finances corruption in government offices, while in the European Union it is a con and a waste of taxpayer money.

*Ukrainians equate European integration with EU membership*

"European integration is key priority for Ukraine," President Yanukovich declared in Brussels, the same words that have come from Ukraine's previous presidents and other top officials. It is clear that, for Ukrainians, European integration and membership in the EU are one and the same thing, and the Association Agreement is seen as the only path that will undoubtedly bring them to it.

In the Union, by contrast, these are clearly two separate things. The Association Agreement, which is becoming more and more of a sacred cow for Ukrainian politicians, is only one instrument for approaching the EU. This process is not limited in any way to the geographic borders of Europe, but is a series of concentric circles expanding across the entire globe. Moreover, its main purpose is to establish a common platform for cooperation built on European principles.



*Ukraine and the EU  
have different ideas  
of European integration*

Ukraine effectively has no idea what it is doing when it sits down to the negotiation table with the EU. There is an enormous difference between what Ukrainians see as Eurointegration and how the Europeans apply this concept in practice. If the reality is that the two sides see these processes and their outcomes so totally differently, then little can come of any joint efforts.

## The illusion of EU expansion

*Europe is not expanding  
but returning to its  
historic boundaries*

EU expansion is a nice diplomatic term that has no bearing on reality and covers completely different processes. In fact, expansion is not on the table at this time. All the processes that found their beginnings in 1952 when the Coal and Steel Union was formed have been nothing more than the return of Europe to its historical boundaries, which had been carved up after World War II. This process continues to this very day and will come to its natural conclusion once the Balkans join the Union.



*Russia's position sees  
Ukraine as separate from  
the rest of Europe*

Neither Ukraine, with its current borders, nor Turkey, which became an official accession candidate in 2005—after 40 years of getting there—, were part of pre-war Europe.

As the heir of the Soviet Union, Russia has publicly taken on itself responsibility for the post-soviet region and is determined to continue to see this region as its own geopolitical "sphere of influence." Its hardened position and military reach separate Ukraine from the rest of the European world even better than did the Iron Curtain.

The absence of a geopolitical center and geopolitical thinking in the EU and the dependence of EU leaders on national political realities have made it impossible to consider any re-think of the current division of territories according to the centers of power. In effect, the balance and relationship of forces in Europe differ little from what they were 60 years ago.

### Speaking different languages

*The EU is working  
to maintain status quo*

All the EU's efforts show that the Union's real agenda vis-a-vis Ukraine is to maintain status quo. It seems that, for the EU, the best situation would be for Ukraine to continue to balance on the edge between Russia and the European Union.

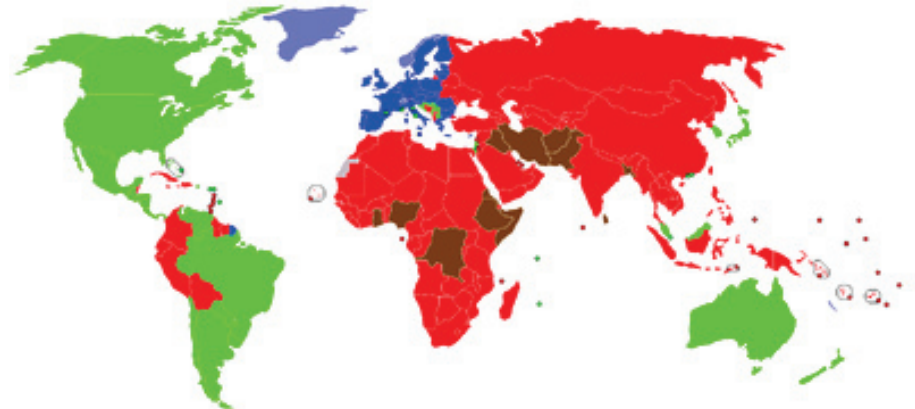
On one hand, the EU has let Ukraine know that it is not seen as a potential member of the European community. On the other hand, it keeps repeating, "The doors are open" like a mantra. There's not a single official document that clearly establishes the EU's Ukraine agenda, yet this does not in any way mean that the EU has no position on this.

Some interpret this as the EU's intention to turn Ukraine into a buffer zone—an approach that has a historical basis and is typical of all superstates of the integrational model, to which the EU undoubtedly belongs. Europe has been applying this model since Roman times, when it signed treaties with its neighbors in order to protect its borders from barbarian invasions.

The European Neighborhood Policy resembles more the attempts of the Roman Empire to get barbarians to guard its own borders. The list of countries that the EU's foreign policy projects include make it amply clear that Ukraine has no chances of eurointegration.

Another cornerstone in Ukraine's eurointegrational ambitions—and a major stumbling block in its negotiations with the EU—is the prospect of a visa-free regime. Here, again, concepts are confused, as a visa is a migrational instrument, not an element of integrational policy. The best proof of this is the fact that citizens of Turkey, which is an official candidate for accession to the European Union, as well as citizens of Albania and Bosnia&Herzegovina who are only potential candidates, still largely need to obtain visas, while citizens of the US, Canada, Australia, Japan and most Latin American countries can enter freely without one.

## EU (Schengen) visa lists



- EU member states
- Special visa-free provisions (Schengen treaty, OCT or other)
- Visa required to enter the EU – annex I countries
- Visa required to enter Schengen area and for transit through Schengen area
- Visa-free access to the EU for 90 days – annex II countries
- Visa-status unknown, listed neither in annex I nor in II

*Ukraine has no clear signal about the dropping of EU visa requirements*

At the moment, Ukraine does not even have a clear signal about the prospects that its citizens will be able to travel into the EU without visas. In the process of negotiating, the long-awaited "roadmap" to the introduction of a visa-free regime has degenerated into yet another "action plan." The difference is not really that big, but it is significant: a roadmap leads to a specific goal, while an action plan, as Ukrainians have learned, generally leads nowhere.

While negotiators keep knocking heads over the issue of visa-free travel, European migration policy has moved in another direction. The Visa Code that came into effect in April 2010 is unanimously seen by European politicians as one that will ensure Ukrainian citizens a particularly favorable procedure for crossing European borders. Still, all those who have felt how it works on their own skins are of a different opinion and are critical of the EU for having made stricter an already severe restrictions and requirements for obtaining visas.

If the visa issue is the top of the EU migration policy tree, its roots are the Readmission Treaty that came into effect at the beginning of 2010. In contrast to the EU's completely uncommitted prospects of canceling visas for Ukraine, Ukraine has taken on itself very specific commitments to take back all illegal migrants who crossed into the EU through its borders. Given the virtually transparent borders and the lack of a reciprocal treaty with Russia, Ukraine is likely to become a migration net into which anyone who wants to can swim, but without any options for where to go further. Ukraine has the world economic crisis to thank for the fact that this net is currently not bursting to the gills with migrational flotsam from all over.



*Opponents of the EU talk about a "Turkish scenario" taking place with Ukraine*

Opponents of European integration in Ukraine are talking about a "Turkish scenario" taking place. The EU does not think of Turks or Ukrainians as Europeans, but is obliged to maintain the integrational process with our countries. Possibly in this way, it hopes to prevent both countries from being drawn into some rival sphere of influence, say, an Islamic one for Turkey and a Russian one for Ukraine, and to make a buffer zone out of them instead.

Technically, a buffer is a country is not part of any integrated entity but associates with them. Still, no country can realistically remain a buffer zone for long. If one center of power does not take it in, it is likely to go to the other one: Turkey is now drifting towards Islam and Ukraine is drifting towards Russia.

*Ukraine is either a threat or part of the European world*

But this kind of situation is just what the European Union neither needs nor wants, as it is a potential security nightmare. The Roman Empire collapsed because it was unable to establish relations with surrounding peoples, but the EU seems to have forgotten that already. Europe, like Russia, is turning Ukraine into a time-bomb, and one that will inevitably blow up. Ukraine must either be a threat or a part of the European world.

### The real sick man of Europe?

*Creeping eurointegration has become a chronic illness for every government*

Since the times of Leonid Kuchma, Ukraine has tended to have a two-headed form of eurointegration: the declarative one on paper and the real one. To hear Ukraine's leaders speak and to read Government documents, the impression is that there is no more determine country to join the EU on this planet. Still, if a sick man complains for nearly 15 years about his illness but does nothing to actually treat it, the question arises immediately whether he is not more attached to his disease than to good health. For Ukraine's governments, creeping eurointegration has become a chronic disease.

*A broken down soviet government system is a major obstacle to eurointegration*

The reason why eurointegration has failed in Ukraine is not just because the EU wants the country to permanently stay somewhere in the middle of the path. Internal factors have also contributed more than a little to this process becoming an endless effort to reach a disappearing horizon. The most obvious barrier to europeanizing Ukraine is the unreformed soviet system of public administration.

Europe's institutional occupation has transformed the countries from the soviet camp into EU member states. If a country has no state institutions other than those that function according to European standards, its government, business and citizens are finally forced to start playing according to new rules.

From the very start of its independence, the situation in Ukraine has been exactly the opposite: all its institutions remain soviet in their essence to this day. Government, business and voters also have little choice but to adapt themselves to the existing system.

In nearly 20 years of independence, Ukraine's soviet government machine, that is the system of interaction between government, business and individual citizens has mutated to such an extent that it has lost the capacity for totalitarian rule. But this mutated public administration system has not been able to become democratic and in line with European norms and standards, because no one was systematically introducing these.

*Government and business both know that Ukraine cannot succeed without europeanizing*

Ukraine's europeanization needs radical changes. Government and business have both adapted to the current state of affairs. But they both also understand that, without europeanization, Ukraine cannot succeed economically or politically.

### The illusion of Association Agreements

The EU would like Ukraine to be a reliable, consistent partner. But this is possible in a democratic country that is rebuilding its internal and external policies along European lines.

What Ukraine's present and past governments have seen as a key component of eurointegration policy, the Association Agreement, is actually only an instrument for cooperation that the EU has been developing with a large number of both close and distant countries. If this kind of twisted logic is followed to its conclusion, then Mexico, Israel and North Africa are way ahead of Ukraine on the path to Europe, as they signed their Association Agreements with the EU back in 2000!

*The EU has AAs with 25 countries and is negotiating with 14 more*

The EU currently has Association Agreements or their equivalent with 25 countries. Another 14 Association Agreements are at various phases of the negotiation process, including the one with Ukraine. The reason why the European Union uses this instrument so broadly is that it cannot lose with them. In fact, by signing such an agreement, the two sides commit themselves to playing by the same European rules.

Opponents of eurointegration are very clear about the threat that an Association Agreement carries for Ukraine. The format of the Agreement, especially as regards the functioning of the Free Trade Area, only specifics the broad-based expansion of European norms. In the case of Ukraine, this is supposed to be "deep and all-encompassing." Depending on the overall world situation, this can be both convenient and otherwise both politically and commercially. But it is always convenient for the EU, where companies gain access to new markets on their own terms.

*Ukraine is not ready to undertake an AA with the EU*

Meanwhile, few people in Ukraine are talking about the fact that the reason for any threats related to the institution of European standards lies not in the standards themselves, but in the institutional incapacity for Ukraine to adopt them. The way Ukraine's government bodies are operating today, there is no point in expecting any Association Agreement with the EU to be properly carried out. Should the

status quo be maintained after the signing of such an agreement, the Government will have serious trouble organizing its execution. The main problem areas are:

### *Lack of a centralized coordination mechanism*

Ukraine still lacks a single coordinating unit for European integration policy. At the moment there is a series of separate processes in individual government bodies that often operate in parallel. Most aspects of eurointegration policy are coordinated by the Economy and Justice Ministries and the Cabinet Secretariat.

Individual coordinating functions are established in law and are effectively carried out by more than one body. When this kind of duplication takes place, the entire system of coordination becomes ineffective and no one takes responsibility for specific problems or failures.

If this kind of situation remains in eurointegration, the Government will not be able to ensure effective communication and coordination among CEBs both during the development of the National Program for the implementation the AA and during its execution.

### *Inability to properly plan the AA execution process*

The current Government planning system, especially strategic and budget planning makes it impossible to make use of such management instruments as the National Program for the implementation the AA based on procedures and templates used by all the countries that have executed or are executing similar agreements with the EU.

Ukraine has myriad planning procedures and templates, especially for budget programs. In their structure they are completely in line with best European practice. However, the lack of standards and quality control means that the goals of these programs are not related to problems and problems with decisions, while funding goes to measures that will never help reach the established goals. Instead of budgetary provision to carry out the country's development priorities, this instrument has turned into a plan for spending public funds by the main handlers.

### *Lack of capacity among CEBs*

Today, Ukraine's CEBs are not clearly assigned the specific objectives that they need to achieve in order to successfully carry out programs and plans regarding integration into the EU, nor is it established what products they are supposed to develop.

At the same time, their internal structure gets in the way of carrying out such objectives and preparing the necessary products. It is anything but clear who will be responsible for the individual products that will be necessary during the preparation phase and the execution of the National Program for the implementation the AA. Moreover, often the same functions are handled by several sub-units, none of which is responsible for the end product.

## Democracy = freedom to live, not to steal

The europeanization of Ukraine is the point where Ukraine's interests and those of the EU coincide. Ukraine absolutely needs European norms and standards in order to reform the public administration system and ensure its own functioning democracy in daily life.

*For Ukrainians, joining the EU is the only option for being free and well-off*

Joining the European Union is, for ordinary Ukrainians, the only opportunity to be free and wealthy. Ukrainians are so determined about eurointegration that no President will be able to ignore no matter how much pressure is exerted.

Ukrainians want the freedom to live, work, be politically engaged, travel around the world, and decide where they want to live. All this was impossible in the Soviet Union. Everybody understands that only freedom spurs initiative, whether it be commercial, social or spiritual. Countries that live in democratic environments have an immeasurably higher quality of life, education, healthcare and public services.

The kind of political system that ensures the freedom of every individual and their well-being is called democracy. The essence of democracy lies in the establishment of strict control over all common resources—both financial and natural—, over the state apparatus, over politicians, and over all those posts that control the gateways to state, that is, national common resources.

In all totalitarian countries, where the government has been objectively and inevitably usurped by embezzlers, democracy is presented as something terrible and threatening to the national interest, as something that “does not suit the national mentality.” Totalitarian regimes without free economic competition are never highly developed. At least, the world has not seen such examples.

*Integration with Russia vs the EU is a choice of quality of life for Ukrainians*

Ukraine's freedom and democracy depend on its foreign policy. Integration with the current regime in Russia or integration with the European Union is a question of quality of life for Ukraine.

Integration with today's Russia, in which the repressive systems of a totalitarian form of government are being restored, will inevitably bring these same principles to Ukraine. There will be no chance for sustainable long-term development with such an integration. The country will never build an effective public administration system and it will be impossible to modernize the two economies, no matter what politicians say.

There is a very real and important reason why people in Russia or Ukraine might think that democracy does not suit them and does not work. Our countries have so far only experienced political freedom with the institution of democratic order, democratic oversight and democratic state institutions.

The failure to work at establishing democratic state institutions has led to a situation where political and economic freedom that were brought by Boris Yeltsin in Russia and by Viktor Yushchenko and Yulia Tymoshenko in Ukraine also led to a freewheeling state apparatus, whose absolute lack of oversight led to total corruption. Uncontrolled, unrestricted by strict laws that punish for any violations of norms and human rights, the government machine was transformed into an army of marauders.

In the battle of ideas at the World Bank in the 1990s, the theories of Jeffrey Sachs won out. These promoted shock therapy, that is, total liberalization without concern for building institutions, which were supposed to develop on their own. Had his rival, Joseph Stiglitz won out, all technical assistance would have gone to establishing market and democratic institutions and there would not have been the chaos and disillusionment that both Ukrainians and Russians have had to struggle with.

Vladimir Putin and Viktor Yanukovych appeal to voters who are desperate for social order and discipline. Neither one nor the other has anything but soviet experience behind him, when it comes to public administration. For them, order means a single top-down chain-of-command, which is called the executive.

*Freedom and liberalism  
within the state apparatus  
is unacceptable*

What neither Ukraine nor Russia know is that, in a democracy, freedom and competition are meant for politics and economics. Freedom and liberalism inside the government machine are completely inadmissible. Democracy, on the contrary, means that there is a strict executive chain-of-command, a strict hierarchy, subordination, and severe, immediate consequences for not carrying out orders and procedures.

Today, Ukraine's bureaucrats steal while voters accuse the President of corruption. This is certainly not democracy. Democracy means free elections, the right of the individual to freedom of speech and of confession and the rule of law. The guarantor of these rights is the President.

Ukraine's problem is not political freedom, as Ukrainians earned it. Ukrainians want a European freedom to live, that is, to live free and well-off, and democracy, which relies on appropriate public administration.

### **Needed: Institutional transformation**

Relations between Ukraine and the EU are currently in a state where there is no way out in the current model of simulated European integration. Rewriting old promises and commitments will go nowhere.

Opponents of eurointegration point to the threat that Ukraine will become a buffer zone for the EU. This risk lies in the very geographic location of the country, between the EU and Russia. For that very reason, Ukraine needs EU assis-

*Ukraine needs EU help transforming public institutions, not promises of accession*

tance in embodying European principles of integration in the Eurasian region. The key condition here is a strong and democratic government machine.

Ukraine needs no promises about membership from the EU. It needs help transforming the soviet government machine into mechanisms that function according to European standards and are capable of ensuring the necessary quality for Ukraine to be a reliable EU partner.

Russia may protest against Ukraine getting closer to the EU, but it is hard to imagine it dictating to Europe what kind of technical assistance should or should not be granted to Ukraine. The focus of foreign aid needs to be democratizing the government machine. This will make it possible to separate political integration from the form of technical assistance.

*The AA could be a platform for reform*

Ukraine's President and Government have clearly stated their intentions to preserve the eurointegration course. Obviously, they are primarily concerned with seeing concrete results from this process and not virtual prospects for Ukraine. This realistic and grounded view could help transform the Association Agreement from a half-measure designed to maintain status quo into a platform for reform.

Ukraine needs to see a change in thinking about who controls whom in the country: the state controls the people and business or the people and business control the state through a system of state oversight institutions. The key requirement for this is to institute European principles of anti-corruption legislation, where violations are clearly established in every norm and every violation is clearly tied to a specific penalty.

The European Union is being irresponsible towards those countries that have maintained an unreformed public administration system from their totalitarian past. Helping democratize the government system without overseeing the results is more harmful than good.

Although the EU has no obligation to offer Ukraine membership, it does have a duty before its own citizens and before the global democratic community to support democratization in Ukraine. Yet the EU keeps talking about Ukraine's lack of capacity, which Europeans call "unwillingness to carry out commitments," and has never raised the question why Ukraine does not carry them out.

The EU cannot allow itself not to think what is going to happen on our common European soil in the future. It has no right to shrug off the obligation to support democratization, as this is a crime against our common future.

Support for democratization and thinking about democratization, including in Ukraine is an EU duty. The EU has the experience, skills, knowledge and habits necessary to transform undeveloped countries into democratic and economically developed ones. The assistance it provided to candidate countries in ac-

ceding to the EU is an excellent example of the role of EU assistance as a catalyst for the transformational processes of democratization.

Still, this is not happening with Ukraine. Despite the fact that over 1991-2010, just the national component of financial instruments for cooperation between Ukraine and the EU, through TACIS and the ENPI, have cost nearly EUR 1.385bn in EU aid, the carrying out of numberless aid programs has only substituted for the idea of reform and imitated lively reformist activity, presenting results that are mostly wishful thinking. Ineffective aid is actually damaging to Ukraine, as it fills in the vacuum created by the lack of reforms with a pointless process of executing aid programs that cannot possibly reach their declared goals.

The fundamental difference lies in the approaches and instruments to providing assistance. Countries who were candidates for accession were given aid whose primary focus was on building up state institutions and developing infrastructure with a clear understanding that further funding depended on concrete results.

### The EU: There are none so blind

Ukraine has had access to international consultants who mostly developed reform policy recommendations without considering the likeliness that these recommendations could or would be put into practice. In other words, to counterweigh advice, conferences and brief study tours, the EU's arsenal includes experience instituting national professional development systems to establish new standards of working in various fields and drafting state policy documents according to democratic standards.

Until now, Ukraine was the only one constantly blamed for the lack of reforms. Yet, some part of the blame lies also with the EU. Demanding that Ukraine carry out reforms that were never operationalized in aid programs to match the level of capacity in state institutions to carry out reforms was the same as demanding that a first-grader solve a physics problem from a grade seven textbook.

Even the launch of the Budget Support program as a new form of assistance under the ENPI in 2007 has not changed the situation. The EU continues to stubbornly ignore the unreformed state of Ukraine's government institutions, giving them hard cash for the Budget despite the fact that Ukraine does not meet EU criteria for allocating this kind of assistance. In this way, the Union shifts responsibility from itself onto Ukrainians. Yet, until the EU actually helps Ukraine reform its corrupt soviet system of state institutions, no systemic reforms will be possible.

Ukraine understands all the political conditions and restrictions in the EU's position towards it today and it knows that membership is quite unrealistic under these circumstances. So all efforts need to be directed towards changing these circumstances.

*The EU has some responsibility for the absence of reform in Ukraine...*

*...turning a blind eye to Ukraine's inadequate fundamentals*

*Europeanization means democratic governance and active cooperation with Russia following European standards*

So, the first condition for europeanizing Ukraine is to form democratic institutions of public administration to replace the current mutations of the soviet administrative machine.

The second one is to normalize relations with Russia and move them onto the path of civilized integration according to European norms. Such a constructive and pragmatic position on the part of Ukraine will make it possible to ease tensions in relations with the EU and to move them from the level of allusions, omissions, and unfulfilled commitments to consistent cooperation directed at building up the Eurasian region along EU principles.